

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION**

LIVE NATION MERCHANDISE, INC.)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. _____
v.)	
)	
VARIOUS JOHN DOES, VARIOUS JANE DOES AND XYZ COMPANY,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THE LANHAM ACT**

Plaintiff, Live Nation Merchandise, Inc. files this complaint against defendants, alleging as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action arises under the Trademark Act 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051 et seq. Accordingly, this Court has federal question jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1338(a), (b). Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because defendants will be selling and distributing infringing merchandise at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee on September 25, 2017 and the Bridgestone Arena, in Nashville, Tennessee on June 12, 2018.

PARTIES

2. Live Nation Merchandise, Inc. ("Plaintiff") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California.

3. Various John Does, Various Jane Does and XYZ Company are sued herein under fictitious names because their true names and capacities are unknown at this time. This complaint will be amended when their true names and capacities are ascertained.

4. Upon information and belief, the individual defendants and defendant XYZ Company through its agents, servants and employees, are or will be present in and about the Middle District of Tennessee, in Nashville, Tennessee, in connection with the claims asserted below and are or will be subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

5. Defendants, and each of them, are individuals and business entities who, upon information and belief, are acting in concert and active participation with each other in committing the wrongful acts alleged herein. Defendants Various John Does, Various Jane Does, and XYZ Company are hereinafter referred to collectively as "Defendants."

THE BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

6. Plaintiff is engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of various types of merchandise sold and distributed at concerts and at retail stores of musical performers, including, but not limited to tour books, T-shirts, jerseys, sweatshirts, hats, buttons and posters (collectively "Tour Merchandise") which embody the trademarks, service marks, likenesses, logos and other indicia musical performers.

7. "HARRY STYLES" (the "Artist") is the trademark used by this performer in connection with his performing, recording, merchandising and other related goods in all aspects of the entertainment industry and to distinguish his services from all other such performers. The Artist has used his marks in connection with his recording, performing and merchandising services for over 5 years.

8. Pursuant to an agreement between the Artist and Plaintiff (the "Agreement"), Plaintiff possesses the exclusive right to utilize all trademarks, service marks, likenesses, logos and other indicia of the Artist (collectively, the "Artist's Trademarks") on and in connection with

Tour Merchandise ("Authorized Tour Merchandise") sold and offered for sale in the vicinity of the Artist's United States tour (the "Tour").

9. The Artist has used his Artist's Trademarks to identify officially authorized goods and services in interstate commerce and to distinguish their marks from those of others by, among other things, prominently displaying the Artist's Trademarks on recording covers and merchandise, including T-shirts and other apparel.

10. The Artist has a decidedly strong and loyal following among those who attend popular music concerts and record buyers. The Artist has appeared in concerts at major arenas and stadiums in the United States, and throughout the world and has been seen and heard in concert by millions of popular music enthusiasts.

11. As a result of the foregoing, each of the Artist's Trademarks has developed and now possesses secondary and distinctive meaning to purchasers of merchandise bearing any or all of the Artist's Trademarks. Plaintiff and the Artist annually realize substantial income from the sale of merchandise bearing the Artist Trademarks.

12. On September 25, 2017 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee and on June 12, 2017 at the Bridgestone Arena, in Nashville, Tennessee, the Artist will perform (the "Concerts"). Authorized Tour Merchandise bearing any or all of the Artist's Trademarks will be sold throughout the United States in connection with the Tour including but not limited to at the Concerts.

DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

13. On information and belief, Defendants, also known as "Bootleggers" will sell and distribute unauthorized, infringing T-shirts, caps and/or other merchandise bearing any or all of

the Artist's Trademarks (the "Infringing Merchandise" or "Bootleg Merchandise") in the vicinity of the Concerts, before, during and after his performance, and at other concerts during the Tour.

14. The Infringing Merchandise is of the same general appearance as Plaintiff's Merchandise and is likely to cause confusion among prospective purchasers. Defendants' Infringing Merchandise is not authorized by the Artist or Plaintiff.

15. The Infringing Merchandise sold and to be sold by Defendants is generally of inferior quality. The sale of such merchandise has injured and is likely to injure the reputation of the Artist which has developed by virtue of his public performances and the reputation for high quality associated with Plaintiff and Authorized Tour Merchandise.

16. The aforesaid acts by Defendants and others are likely to cause the purchasing public to believe that the sale of such Infringing Merchandise is authorized, sponsored or approved by the Artist and/or Plaintiff and that such Infringing Merchandise is subject to the same quality control and regulation required by the Artist and/or Plaintiff, despite the fact that this is not true. It also injures Artist and Plaintiff in that Defendants do not have to pay any royalty for these unlawful sales.

17. The aforesaid manufacture, distribution and sale of Infringing Merchandise bearing trademarks, service marks, likenesses, logos and other indicia of the Artist constitutes a false designation of the source of origin of such goods and falsely describes and represents such merchandise. The use by Defendants of the Artist's Trademark also constitutes an attempt to palm off and appropriate to themselves the Artist's and Plaintiff's exclusive rights therein.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendants will continue to engage in such infringing activities in this state and elsewhere in interstate commerce and are likely to continue such activities throughout the Tour, to the great injury of Plaintiff and the Artist.

19. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable harm and damage as a result of the aforesaid acts, in an amount presently incalculable.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Violation of the Lanham Act)

21. Plaintiff realleges each allegation set forth in the paragraphs above.

22. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff hereby asserts a claim against Defendants for injunctive and monetary relief pursuant to Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), with regards to the false designation of origin and false descriptions and representations in commerce of Defendants' Unauthorized Merchandise.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, Live Nation Merchandise, Inc. seeks relief against Defendants as follows:

A. As to All Claims For Relief, that Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, officers, attorneys, successors and assigns, and all persons acting in concert with them, be enjoined in this and all other judicial districts in the United States, preliminarily during the course of this litigation and permanently from: 1) manufacturing, distributing, selling, offering for sale, holding for sale or advertising any products, merchandise or goods bearing the trademarks, service marks, likenesses, logos and other indicia of the Artist or any colorable variation or imitation thereof; and 2) representing that any products, merchandise or goods manufactured, distributed, sold, held for sale or advertised by them is sponsored or authorized by Plaintiff in this district or in any other district in which Plaintiff seeks to enforce this Court's injunction order.

B. As to All Claims For Relief, that this Court order the United States Marshal, the local and state police or sheriff, off duty officers of the same, authorized agents of Plaintiff, and/or any persons acting under their supervision to seize and impound any and all Unauthorized Merchandise

which the Defendants attempt to sell, distribute or hold for sale at, within or in the vicinity of the arenas at which the Artist is performing, whether this occurs before, during or after all concerts on the Tour.

C. That Defendants deliver up for destruction all Unauthorized Merchandise.

D. As to All Claims For Relief, that Defendants pay to Plaintiff damages in an amount to be determined.

E. As to All Claims For Relief, that Plaintiff be awarded its costs, attorney's fees and such other and further relief as the Court deems to be just and proper.

Dated: September 18, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
LIVE NATION MERCHANDISE, INC.
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